INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

OF PLANT PROTECTION

1932 No. 2

DISCOVERIES AND CURRENT EVENTS *

North Africa and French West Africa: Desert Locust *(Schistocerca gregaria)* (1).

Swarms observed during October 1931 :—

On the 7th a large swarm in the region of Foum Joul, 25 km N. W. of Atar.

On the 14th a swarm on the palm plantation of In Salah and one at Bilma.

On the 15th a swarm at Saret, 80 km S. of El-Goléa.

On the 16th a swarm over In Salah coming from S.E.

On the 20th a swarm over El-Goléa and one at Oued Bou Demann and Bou Guema, 70 km S.S.E. of Timimoun.

On the 22nd a swarm between Battin and the oasis of Timimoun.

On the 25th a large swarm over In Salah.

On the 29th a swarm at Adrar and over the oasis of Touat ; a swarm between the Oued Tatta and the Oued Draa ; a swarm at Igherm, 120 km E.S.E. of Agadir.

On the 31st a swarm 18 km from Her-Eando on the frontier between Algeria and Morocco ; a swarm over the tribe of Ida Ougnidif, 80 km S.E. of Agadir.

England and Wales: New and Interesting Phytopathological Records for the Year 1931 (2).

(*a*) Plant parasitic fungi encountered in England and Wales during the year 1931 and believed not to have been recorded there previously :—

Kunkelia nitens (Schw.) Arth. On Dewberry plants (*Rubus* ; species unknown) recently introduced from U.S.A.

Chalaropsis thielavioides Peyr. Found on the surface of carrots (*Daucus*) that had been kept in store. Parasitism doubtful. A form of the same fungus was encountered in association with Walnut (*Juglans*) graft failures.

Stagonospora Fragariae Briard and Hariot. What appears to be this fungus was found causing a leaf - and fruit - spot of strawberry in the west of England.

Sclerotium rhizodes Auersw. Causing considerable destruction in an upland meadow in Derbyshire on *Agrostis*.

Uromyces Trifolii (Hedw. f.) Lév. The uredo- and teleutosori of this Rust are not uncommon on clover (*Trifolium pratense*) in England and Wales, but its aecidia were seen for the first time during 1931.

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* In this, as in the next chapter the countries are arranged in French alphabetical order.

(1) Communication from the Government General of Algeria to the International Institute of Agriculture.

(2) Communication from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, London, official correspondent of the Institute.

(*b*) The parasites mentioned below are not new to the country, but their occurrence on the particular hosts mentioned is interesting, as it is believed to be the first of the kind in each case recorded for England and Wales :—

Mycosphaerella pinodes (B. & Br.) Vestergr. On Sweet Pea (*Lathyrus odoratus*).

Gloeosporium album Osterw. On fruit of quince (*Cydonia vulgaris*).

Heterosporium Allii var. *cepivorum* Nic. and Agg. On leaves of onion.

Sclerotium Tuliparum Kleb. On corms of *Colchicum* sp.

(*c*) The Chrysanthemum Midge, *Diarthronomyia hypogaea*, F. Löw (see this *Bulletin*, 1929, No. 7, p. 97) now appears to have been eradicated, no trace of this pest having been discovered during 1931.

United States of America : Diseases of Peanuts (1).

Interest in diseases of peanuts in the United States has heretofore centered largely on diseases of the foliage, particularly the Leaf Spot (*Cercospora personata*). A survey made during the summer of 1931, in the States of Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama, indicates that certain diseases of the nut are of commercial importance also. One of the most important diseases of the nut is apparently the southern blight caused by *Sclerotium rolfsii*. Various fungi, *Fusarium* sp., *Diplodia* sp., etc., were found causing discoloration of the shells after the vines had been stacked. A number of fungi, some of which have not yet been determined, have been isolated from diseased pods and nuts.

Perhaps the heaviest loss is due to the fruiting stems becoming so weakened that the adhering soil pulls the nuts off the bush and the nuts are left in the ground. Losses from this cause as determined by actual weight of nuts left in the soil varied from 1-30 % in the southern and coastal plain regions. The staining or spotting of the pods of the larger fancy varieties by various fungi makes it impossible to sell the nuts in the shell and this results in a lower price to the grower. Finally, some of the nuts may be so seriously diseased that they have to be discarded in the factory. The amount of these ' pick outs ' varied from 2-10 % in factories visited during October, 1931.

Southern blight is apparently generally distributed throughout the peanut belt of the Southeast, but is more severe in sandy than in clay lands, and is apparently abundant in fields where fertilizer or lime has been employed during the past season.

In general, Leaf Spot, *Cercospora personata*, was more severe in the southern part of Georgia and the coastal plain regions of the Carolinas and Virginia than it was in the Piedmont regions of the same States.

India : New Diseases Reported during the Year 1931 (2).

P u s a (Reported by Dr. W. McRae, Imperial Mycologist, Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research).

Trichosanthes dioica :— *Synchytrium* sp. on fruits.

Control measures. — The diseases of piper-betel caused by *Rhizoctonia solani*

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(1) Communication from the official correspondent of the Institute, Dr. Neil E. Stevens, Senior Pathologist in Charge, Disease Survey, Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington.

(2) Communication from the official correspondent of the Institute, Mr. W. McRae, M. A., D. Sc., F. L. S., Imperial Mycologist, Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research, Pusa, Bihar, India.

and *Sclerotium rolfsii* can be controlled by watering with a 0.07 per cent solution of Kerol at regular intervals.

Bombay Presidency (Reported by Dr. B. N. Uppal, Plant Pathologist).

Sorghum vulgare :— *Rhizoctonia bataticola.*

Control measures. — Gummosis of citrus can be effectively controlled by treating with Creosote oil and is preferable to 50 per cent carbolic acid which sometimes causes injury to treated trees.

Bengal (Reported by Mr. G. P. Hector, Economic Botanist).

Asclepias sp. :— *Diplodia* sp. Spraying with 1 per cent Bordeaux mixture gives good results.

Punjab (Reported by Mr. J. C. Luthra, Economic Botanist).

Cicer arietinum :— *Phyllosticta rabiei* (Pass.) Trotter, causing gram blight.

Mysore (Reported by Mr. M. J. Narasinham, Mycologist, Department of Agriculture, Mysore State).

Aleurites fordii :— A strain of *Phytophthora palmivora* Butl. (*P. Faberi* Maubl.) was discovered on the leaves of the Tung oil tree. It reacts like a female strain forming oospores with the strain on areca but not with that on Santalum.

Morocco (French Zone): Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*) (1).

Movements of swarms of *Schistocerca gregaria* Forsk. from 15 December 1931 to 25 January 1932.

In the region of Ouarzazat a good sized swarm flying east passed over Foum Z' Guid (100 km S. of Ouarzazat) on 10 January.

In the Sous a swarm of 10 × 2 km coming from the east alighted on 29 December in the tribe of Haouara 10 km W. of Taroudant (colour brick red). Another swarm of 8 × 2 km coming from the south alighted at the same point on 7 January.

In the Atlas mountains a swarm of red locusts, 6 × 2 km, coming from Ida ou Tanant passed over Tamanar on 16 December and alighted at Ida ou Bonzia. It remained there from the 7th to the 20th, when it alighted again at Imigrad near Dar Cheikh Tajabrit, 50 km S. of Mogador, and remained until the 22nd. On the 22nd it flew south and alighted in the tribe of Ida ou Kasseou, 16 km S. E. of Tamanar. Another swarm alighted at Ait Zeltern, 45 km S. E. of Mogador, on the 26th, left on the 27th and alighted again in the tribe of Meskala, 30 km E.S.E. of Mogador.

In the regions to the north of the Atlas range a swarm alighted on 28 December in the Naiirat division coming from the south-west ; it was kept on the ground by rain on the 29th and the locusts were collected and killed. Several swarms alighted on 8 January at Menacir, 48 km N. E. of Mogador, at Aguermond, 27 km N. E. of Mogador, and at Salla, 33 km N. E. of Mogador ; they remained on the ground on the 9th and flew away together on 10 January towards Abda.

In the Sous region a large and very dense swarm of reddish-grey locusts flying from south to north passed over Tiznit on 19 January 1932 and alighted to the north of this centre ; it departed on the 20th at about midday in a north-easterly

(1) Communication from Mr. P. Régnier, Chief of the Crop Protection Service of Morocco (French Zone), Rabat, transmitted to the Institute by Mr. Delassus, Crop Protection Inspector for Algeria and Chief of the Regional Locust Station of Algiers.

direction. Another swarm of 20 × 10 km coming from the south alighted on the 19th at Haouara, 28 km south-west of Taroudant.

In the Atlas mountains a large swarm of red locusts coming from Ida ou Tanant alighted on 13 January between Ait Ameur and Ida ou Trouma, 22 km south of Tamanar. Another swarm on the night of the 14th passed 25 km to the south of Tamanar. A large dense swarm of 20 × 6 km coming from the south alighted on 10 January at Ida ou Zal, 25 km south-east of Argana, passed on the 14th over this post, circled round and departed in a north-easterly direction. A small swarm 200 metres in length coming from 35 km to the south of Mogador alighted 45 km south-east of Mogador on the 16th ; it departed on the 17th towards Meknassa, 32 km south-east of Mogador. A swarm of red locusts, very dense and 20 × 4 km, coming from Haouara passed on the 21st over Argana flying north. A red swarm of low density alighted on the 20th at Ait Aissi, 25 km east of Tamanar, and departed on the 21st in a northerly direction.

In the regions of Mogador and Safi a swarm coming from the north alighted on 12 January 50 km south of Safi. Another swarm coming from the north-west alighted 50 km north-east of Mogador on the 13th. A swarm of 6 × 4 km coming from the west alighted on the 11th 50 km E. S. E. of Safi ; after some hours they departed towards the north (Doukhala). This swarm departed on the 17th towards the east and on the 23rd reached 12 km to the west of Dar Ouled Zidouh (Talda) after having crossed the region to the north of El Kelaa des Sghrarna.

Mexico : Panama Disease of Bananas (1).

Fusarium cubense var. *inodoratum* Brandes, the cause of Panama disease, has been found on specimens of banana plants collected in the State of Tamaulipas and sent by the ' Oficina Federal para la Defensa Agrícola ' to Dr. H. W. Wollenweber of Berlin.

This very serious disease is thus shown to be present also in Mexico.

The ' Oficina ' has already undertaken extensive investigations to determine the infected localities in order to take the necessary measures.

The north-eastern region, which is very rich and includes the States of Nayarit, Sinaloa and Sonora, has been protected since 1927 against importation of banana suckers from other regions of the Republic by ' Cuarentena Interior No. 2 ' and from foreign countries by ' Cuarentena Exterior No. 7 '.

There will shortly be brought into force an internal quarantine order regulating the circulation of banana plants within the Republic and controlling the cultivation of the banana.

LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

Germany. — In accordance with an Order of 3 November 1931 and with the purpose of avoiding the introduction of the San Jose scale (*Aspidiotus perniciosus*) it is forbidden until further notice to import into Germany living plants or parts of plants coming from America, Australia (including Tasmania and New Zealand), the Hawaiian Islands, Japan, China, British India, Mesopotamia and the Union

(1) Communication from the official correspondent of the Institute, Dr. Alfonso DAMPF, Jefe del Departamento de Investigación, Oficina Federal para la Defensa Agrícola, San Jacinto, D. F.

of South Africa. This regulation applies also to any materials which have been used for packing or storing such living plants or plant parts.

Fresh fruits and their residues coming from the countries specified above may be imported only by the customs offices authorised by the German Government and if contained in the original packages and on condition that inspection on entry, carried out at the expense of the importer, shows them to be free from the presence or the suspected presence of the San Jose scale, and of apple maggot (*Rhagoletis pomonella*) if the consignment is coming from the United States of America or Canada.

Exceptions to this Order may be allowed by the Minister of Agriculture. (*Nachrichtenblatt für den Deutschen Pflanzenschutzdienst*, Berlin 1931, 11. Jahrg., Nr. 12, S. 103-104).

*** By Decree of 26 November 1931 the Minister of Agriculture has provided the measures for the application of the Decree of 3 November 1931 concerning the prevention of the introduction of the San Jose scale (*Aspidiotus perniciosus*) and the apple maggot (*Rhagoletis pomonella*).

It is forbidden to import any Dicotyledonous tree or shrub (exclusive of the Cactaceae), by which is particularly intended any species of fruit tree.

Any other tree or shrub may be imported provided that it is not forbidden by any other legislative measure and that inspection at the custom office has not ascertained the presence or suspected presence of the San Jose scale.

Importation of underground parts of plants and of seeds, vegetables, drugs and raw products for industry is allowed.

This Decree is equally applicable to living plants and parts of living plants transported in passengers' luggage.

For determining the presence or absence of the San José scale inspection will be based on the ' Anleitung für die Untersuchung von Pflanzen, Obst und Kartoffeln bei der Einfuhr ' (Instructions for the inspection of plants, fruits and potatoes on importation) issued by the Biologische Reichsanstalt für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Berlin-Dahlem.

Importation is allowed of the so-called southern fruits (' Sud-fruchte ' : citrus fruits, raisins, bananas, pineapples, etc.), as also of all kinds of dried fruits and dried fruit residues. This Decree does not apply to fruits transported in passengers' luggage.

To prevent consignments refused on account of the presence of the San Jose scale or the apple maggot being presented at another custom office inspectors will report every finding of the presence of the insects specifying the name of the consignee and the number of the consignment.

A Decree of 7 November 1931 contains a list of the custom offices authorised to accept consignments of fruits and fruit residues coming from America, Australia, including Tasmania and New Zealand, the Hawaiian Islands, Japan, China, British India, Mesopotamia and the Union of South Africa (1).

Germany (Oldenburg) (1). — By Decree of 10 October 1931 similar legislative measures have been provided for the control of elm disease (*Graphium Ulmi*) as were adopted for the Free State of Bremen by the Order of 31 March 1931 (see this *Bulletin*, 1931, No. 6, p. 97).

(1) Communication from the Biologische Reichsanstalt für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Berlin-Dahlem, official correspondent of the Institute.

Germany (Prussia) (1). — A Decree of 7 November 1931 of the Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Forests provides that plants and fruits for importation will not be examined by experts on Sundays or holidays or during the night, except in cases of urgency and on the special request of the importer. The importer will in such a case pay, in addition to an extra charge of 10 RM. for each consignment, a supplement of 50 %.

Germany (Saxony) (1). — By Decree of 16 November 1931 the Decree of 1 April 1930 (see this *Bulletin*, 1930, No. 10, p. 152) concerning the control of potato wart disease (*Synchytrium endobioticum*) has been amended.

In future it will be allowed to plant potatoes from a crop which has not been inspected in the field provided that they belong to varieties recognised resistant to wart disease and in compliance with certain conditions, viz, that the potatoes are delivered directly to the planter either by the producer or through the agency of the communal authority, with special care that they do not become mixed with other potatoes.

The Decree contains a new list and descriptions of 14 varieties of potatoes recognised resistant to wart disease and available for planting in regions infected with the disease.

Western Australia. — On 19th November 1931 the Director of Agriculture notified that Cape Tulip (*Homeria collina* and *H. miniata*) and *Watsonia* have been declared noxious weeds within the boundaries of the Bayswater Road Board and of the Capel Road Board districts respectively. (*Government Gazette of Western Australia*, Perth, November 20, 1931, No. 62, p. 2483)

Belgium. — On 18 November 1931 the Belgian Chargé d'Affaires in Rome deposited with the Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs the ratification by his Government of the International Convention for Plant Protection, which was signed at Rome on 16 April 1929 (see this *Bulletin*, 1929, No. 4, pp. 50-55), accompanied by a declaration concerning the institutions referred to in Art. 2, Nos. 1 and 2, of the Convention (Art. 22).

The Belgian Embassy stated moreover that the Convention would apply also to the Belgian Congo and to the territories under Belgian mandate. (*Gazzetta Ufficiale del Regno d'Italia*, Roma, 25 gennaio 1932, anno 73°, n. 19, p. 416).

Spain. — By ' Orden ' of 18 November 1931, effective as from 10 January 1932, the importation of spawn for cultivation of the mushroom [*Agaricus campester*] will no longer be allowed unless consignments are accompanied by a certificate officially issued by the Phytopathological Service of the country of origin, stating (*a*) that the manure used for growing the spawn was sterilised before sowing (the method of disinfection to be stated) ; (*b*) that the spawn was grown from a pure mushroom culture ; (*c*) that the spawn contains no germs of diseases injurious to plants grown in the Republic. (*Gaceta de Madrid*, Madrid, 21 noviembre 1931, año CCLXX, tomo IV, núm. 325, pág. 1126).

Estonia. — The Order No. 5115 of the Ministry of National Economy, dated 20 July 1931, contains a list of the products intended for use in the control of plant

(1) Communication from the Biologische Reichsantstalt für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Berlin-Dahlem, official correspondent of the Institute.

diseases and pests and weeds which are allowed to be imported free of custom duty. To benefit from this free entry the products must, except in the case of calcium and sodium arsenates, be imported in their original packings. (*Deutsches Handels-Archiv*, Berlin 1931, 85. Jahrg., S. 2834).

France. — A Decree of 9 November 1931 provides for the creation and organisation of a Colonial Chair of Plant Pathology and a Colonial Chair of Agricultural Zoology at the National Institute of Colonial Agronomy at Nogent-sur-Marne (Seine).

The principal objects of these two chairs will be respectively the study of non-parasitic diseases and vegetable parasites of tropical crops and the study of useful insects and pests of tropical crops. (*Journal Officiel de la République Française*, Paris, 17 novembre 1931, LXIII[e] année, n° 268, p. 11871-11872).

Honduras. — There are no measures concerning plant protection and seed control. (*Deutsches Handels-Archiv*, Berlin 1932, 86. Jahrg., S. 53).

Luxemburg (Grand Duchy of) (1). — By Ministerial Notice of 24 October 1931 bringing into effect the provisions of the Ministerial Decree of 24 September 1923, all consignments of potatoes coming from Belgium must be accompanied by a certificate issued by the Phytopathological Service stating that the potatoes come from a district free from wart disease [*Synchytrium endobioticum*].

Potatoes may be considered as coming from a district free from infection if they are grown and packed in a place situated at least 20 km from any wart disease infection.

Nicaragua. — The importation of sacks, whether full or empty, which have been previously used is forbidden. There are no other measures relating to plant protection. (*Deutsches Handels-Archiv*, Berlin 1932, 86. Jahrg., S. 66).

Panama. — There are no measures relating to plant protection and seed control. (*Deutsches Handels-Archiv*, Berlin 1932, 86. Jahrg., S. 73).

Peru. — By Presidential Decree of 12 August 1931, Art. 1 of the Decree of 13 June 1914 has been modified to give to the Department of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry of the Ministry of ' Fomento ' the right to authorise importation of living plants by the customs offices of the various ports of the Republic ; the plants will be inspected at the ports by the Chief of the Plants and Seeds Inspection Service and by experts of the agricultural stations and commissions. Importers must be provided with permits for the plants and must defray the costs of inspection. (*Boletín de la Compañía Administradora del Guano*, Lima, Perú, 1931, vol. VII, no. 8, págs. 409 y 410).

Dominican Republic. — With a view to protecting the rice crops from diseases and pests not occurring in the Republic, by Presidential Decree No. 119 of 25 April 1931 it is forbidden to introduce paddy from any provenance or for any purpose.

This restriction does not apply to small quantities of seed rice for the ' Departamento de Agricultura de la Secretaría de Estado de Agricultura y Comercio ' ex-

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(1) Communication from the official correspondent of the Institute, Mr. V. FERRANT, Officer in Charge, Phytopathological Service, Luxemburg.

clusively for experimental purposes. The official inspector of plants and seeds will disinfect the seed rice before forwarding it to the Department. (*Revista de Agricultura y Comercio*, Órgano oficial del Departamento de Agricultura y Comercio, Santo Domingo, R. D., 1931, vol. XXI, no. 20, pág. 95).

*** For purposes of plant protection by Presidential Decree No. 121 of 1 May 1931 it is absolutely prohibited to introduce or import plants, seed or slips of cassava [*Manihot*] from the Republic of Haiti. It is also forbidden to import or introduce substances extracted from the cassava plant of the same provenance unless they have been treated by heat. (*Ibid.*, pág. 96).

Italian Somaliland. — By Governatorial Decree No. 8475 of 14 March 1931 a Phytopathological Service was instituted for Italian Somaliland under the Office of Agriculture, the duties of the new Service being as follows :—

(*a*) to carry out microbiological, pathological and zoological research as applied to agriculture ;

(*b*) to provide for the supervision of the nursery and other establishments concerned in the production of plants, parts of plants and seeds for commercial purposes ;

(*c*) to provide for the distribution of knowledge relating to plant diseases and pests and their control ;

(*d*) to supervise the importation and exportation of plants and plant parts with a view to preventing the entrance of new diseases and pests and the spread of those already present ;

(*e*) to issue certificates relating to the condition of health and origin of consignments of plants and plant parts. (*Bollettino Ufficiale della Somalia Italiana*, Mogadiscio, 31 maggio 1931, anno XXI, n. 5, p. 82).

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NOTES

Congress of the International Union of Forestry Research Institutes. — The programme of this Congress to be held at Nancy, France, 4-11 September 1932, includes a study of questions concerning physiological and cryptogamic diseases of forest trees and forest entomology.

In consideration however of the fact that the Fifth International Congress of Entomology (see this *Bulletin*, 1931, No. 9, p. 180) is to be held in Paris from 16 to 23 July 1932, the Forest Entomology Section of the International Union of Forestry Research Institutes will meet at Nancy about July 15 in order to allow forest entomologists to attend both Congresses.

Prof. ALESSANDRO BRIZI, *Segretario generale dell'Istituto, Direttore responsabile.*